

**WINCHESTER TREE COMMISSION
MINUTES
August 26, 2010**

The regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Winchester Tree Commission was held on Thursday, August 26, 2010 at 4:05 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Administration Building at City Yards.

Mr. Farris, Chair, called the meeting to order.

Ms. Major made a motion to approve the July minutes; seconded by Mr. Roulston, motion was approved by a 6-0 vote.

Members present: Mr. Patrick Farris, Ms. Allison Major, Mr. T'ai Roulston, Ms. Donna Downing, Ms. Kate Christen, and Ms. Mary Stickley

Members absent: Ms. Chris Scully

Staff present: Tim Stern, Jim O'Connor, and Kelly Feltner

Guests Present: Mr. John Tagnesi and Gerald Crowell, liaison for NRAB

New Business:

1) Consideration of Tree Removal/Trimming requests:

370 Kern Street

Mr. Farris made a motion to remove the Sweet Gum tree located at 370 Kern Street pending review of current policy; seconded by Ms. Stickley, motion was approved.

Mr. Roulston made a motion to remove the 1st Silver Maple located at 370 Kern Street; seconded by Ms. Downing, motion was approved.

Ms. Downing made a motion to deny removal and trim as needed for the 2nd Silver Maple located at 370 Kern Street; seconded by Ms. Stickley, motion was approved.

25 E. Hart Street and across street from 25 E. Hart Street

Ms. Christen made a motion to remove the 1st maple tree located at 25 E. Hart Street; seconded by Mr. Roulston, motion was approved.

Mr. Roulston made a motion to deny removal of 2nd maple tree located across the street from 25 E. Hart Street; seconded by Mr. Farris, motion was approved.

932 Allen Drive

Mr. Roulston made a motion to remove the tree located at 932 Allen Drive; seconded by Ms. Christen, motion was approved.

224 Parkway Street

Ms. Stickley made a motion to remove the tree located at 224 Parkway Street; seconded by Ms. Christen, motion was approved.

403 W. Monmouth Street

Mr. Farris made a motion to remove the tree located at 403 W. Monmouth Street pending review of current policy; seconded by Mr. Roulston, motion was approved.

946 Kinzel Drive

Mr. Farris made a motion to remove the tree located at 946 Kinzel Drive; seconded by Ms. Stickley, motion was approved.

Old Business:

- 1) Mr. Farris stated that if the Sweet Gum policy is removed, then all the Sweet Gum trees currently standing will not be removed. Mr. Roulston said that the Tree Commission should re-review each tree because they have been voting strictly on the Sweet Gum removal policy and did not consider the health of the tree. Mr. Farris agreed and said that if the policy is removed then they would re-review each Sweet Gum tree that is still standing, at the next Tree Commission meeting.
- 2) Mr. Farris requested that the Bradford Pear and Sweet Gum policy be removed; Ms. Christen seconded, motion approved. Mr. Farris said that all the Sweet Gum trees, still standing, will be added to the review list at the next meeting.

Comments from Members:

- 1) Mr. Farris stated that one of the Tree Commissions' policies is to automatically replace any tree that was removed and add to the replacement list, unless there are succumbing circumstances.
- 2) Mr. Farris stated that according to Roberts Rules, the Tree Commission member has to make a motion for the tree removal/trim requests in order to discuss the tree. Mr. Farris said that the Tree Commission meeting should be a place of exception and they should be able to discuss the tree first before deciding the motion. He said that if we have the discussion up front it would make the motion more meaningful. He also said that they could take into consideration the staff comments as well.

- 3) Mr. Roulston stated that the Tree Commission needs to involve an agreement with the City Arborist that lays out the circumstance under which the commission's approval is requested; because according to City Code the City Arborist does not have to seek approval from the Tree Commission. Mr. Farris said that this will be added to the Old Business at the next meeting and asked Tim Stern to prepare a statement for the next meeting.

Comments from City Staff:

- 1) Mr. Farris asked Jim O'Connor about the liability concerns for the Sweet Gum trees and Jim O'Connor said that the City of Winchester has a general liability policy but most of the time the city is not exposed to this unless they have negligence on their part. For example, tripping on sweet gum balls is the same as tripping on wet leaves. Mr. Farris asked Jim O'Connor if the city is more liable tripping on sweet gum balls and Jim O'Connor said no. Jim O'Connor said that from an insurance stand point, the city is doing what is right, by providing a City Arborist that looks at trees on a regular basis and the Tree Commission taking in concerns about trees.

Adjourn:

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

**CITY OF WINCHESTER
TREE COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT FOR JULY 2010
SUBMITTED AUGUST 26, 2010**

This report is a summary of contractor expenses and an activity listing of trimmings, plantings, removals and stump grindings for the month of July 2010.

**EXPENSES REPORT
(Billings for July 2010)**

CONTRACTOR TRIMMINGS:	CONTRACTOR PLANTINGS:	CONTRACTOR REMOVALS:	TOTAL:
\$ 1,250.00	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 1,250.00

ACTIVITY REPORT

TRIMMING:	PLANTINGS:	REMOVALS:	STUMP GRINDING:
405 Briarmont Dr.			
359 Miller St.			
101 Molden Dr.			
Jubal Early Dr. (KFC) x6			
Van Fossen at Kern St (x3)			
224 Parkway St.			
Island at Breckinridge and Merrimans Ln. (x10)			
1454 Greystone Terr.			
24 trees	0 trees	0 trees	0 stumps